indicated interest incollaborating with M/s. Scooters India Ltd., a public sector undertaking, for the production of two-wheelers. A decision on the company's application is to be taken keeping these two requests in view.

Decline in profit of PSUs

1895. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of profit making Public Sector Undertakings have registered a fall in their profit in 1998-99 in comparison to 1997-98;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The number of profit making PSUs have come down from 134 in 1997-98 to 127 during 1998-99.

(b) The reasons for decline in profits are enterprise specific. These include recession in some of the industrial sectors, under utilisation of capacity, changed market scenario, severe financial crunch, higher interest and depreciation burden surplus manpower etc.

(c) The steps taken to improve the situation include financial and business restructuring, cost control, upgradation of technology, modernisation of plant and machinery, improved marketing strategies, change of product mix, rationalisation of manpower etc.

PSEs referred to BIFR

1896. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) that were referred to BIFR during the last three years;

(b) the number of revival schemes that had been sanctioned during the period;

(c) whether the performance of those PSEs, that were offered revived schemes, had improved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) During the last three years *i.e.* 1997, 1998 & 1999 (upto June), according to information available, nine CPSUs were registered with BIFR.

(b) to (d) In all over the years 67 CPSUs were registered with BIFR up to 30.06.99 out of which revival schemes were approved in respect of 23 CPSUs. Revival schemes for six CPSUs were approved during the last three years and are at different stages of implementation. Four of these six CPSUs for which revival schemes were approved have earned profit during 1998-99.

Closing of Wagon India (Ltd.)

1897. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to wind up Wagon India (Ltd.);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and as to why at present there is no CMD of Wagon India (Ltd.); and

(c) whether the Railway Ministry has opposed the move to close Wagon India (Ltd.)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Railways visualizes a limited aidant role for Wagon India Limited (WIL). Government is examining the utility of WIL taking into account the views of the Railway Ministry as well as the tender procedures since adopted by the Railways for procurement of wagons. Interim incharge arrangements have therefore been made in respect of CMD.

Purchase Preference for PSEs

1898. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the extent orders of Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) the Central Government Ministries/Departments were